

This should be alarming to many of us in this Chamber, especially as we fight for a more inclusive multiracial democracy.

I am reminded of the need for Congress to pass critical legislation like Congressman BOWMAN's African American History Act.

It is now more important than ever and very timely that, again, we make sure that we teach our history accurately. The truth must always be taught and should inspire all of us to continue to march for freedom, equity, and justice for all in the spirit of our civil rights leaders and our social justice seekers who came before us.

We cannot, Mr. Speaker, rob our children of learning the role of systemic racism in our American history and how it continues to impact the lives of many of our neighbors across the country.

This is how we support our communities to gain unity, to embrace diversity. It is critical that we tell the truth about our Nation's past, and that includes reckoning with our history of racism, enslavement, segregation, and redlining in our communities, and even now with the Black Lives Matter movement in our country.

This painting, Mr. Speaker, is called Critical Race Theory by Jonathan Harris, a local artist in Detroit. It is a powerful reminder of the importance of teaching and preserving Black history. We cannot allow anyone to erase Black history and the powerful legacies of our civil rights warriors, many of which inspire me today.

We cannot learn from our past if our past is no longer being taught in our education system.

CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG YOUTH EXCHANGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40th anniversary of the CBYX program.

This unique program has had more than 26,000 American and German participants contributing to the cultural and political exchange among the citizens of our countries, tying us ever closer together.

As co-chair of the German-American Caucus, my office is proud to host Pau Drexler. He is 23 years old and hails from the southwestern part of Germany.

On August 9 of last year, Pau and 74 other young professionals from Germany landed in Washington, D.C., to start an exchange year as part of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange. As the word "exchange" implies, 75 young Americans landed during that same time in Frankfurt, Germany.

As part of the program, participants aged between 18 and 25 are placed from Alaska to Texas and New York City to

Los Angeles. This diversity is reflected in the great variety of jobs that they are trained in. Whether bakers, mechanics, or tailors, the CBYX program is an ideal occasion to exchange knowledge, skills, and experience on a professional level, but there are personal connections that emerge from the participants' immersion into daily life of their host communities, as well.

Many of Pau's fellows have already formed great bonds with their host families and classmates. Consequently, Clara, a participant of the 35th CBYX cohort who also interned on the Hill, visited her initial and Pau's current host family last weekend in D.C.

The CBYX program is jointly funded by the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag. It is an extraordinary chance for young minds to learn about different perspectives and create a better understanding of these in their host and their home communities.

Mr. Speaker, as the chairman of the German-American Caucus, I want to emphasize the importance of this program as it strengthens the bonds between our countries not only on a governmental but also on a civic level.

The CBYX is an unprecedented exchange program and a great example of how cultural and political exchange amongst citizens can positively impact international relations in a different, more grassroots, and hands-on way.

MOUNT JEWETT TO KINZUA BRIDGE TRAIL CLUB

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Mount Jewett to Kinzua Bridge Trail Club for winning Pennsylvania Trail of the Year.

This section of the Knox and Kane Rail Trail in McKean County is a 7.8-mile-long trail. The former rail line now provides a level trail for walking, jogging, biking, and horseback riding. In winter months cross-country skiing and snowmobiling are also popular.

The Knox and Kane Rail Trail spans four counties in Northern Pennsylvania and is a source of outdoor fun for the whole family, whether you are local or, quite frankly, a visitor passing through.

The Pennsylvania Trail of the Year Award is given by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to help build enthusiasm and support for trails across the State and to raise public awareness about the value of Pennsylvania's land and water trail network.

Mr. Speaker, Pennsylvania continues its tradition of being a leader in trail development by providing its citizens and visitors with more than 12,000 miles of trails.

Congratulations to the Mount Jewett to Kinzua Bridge Trail Club for this tremendous accomplishment.

□ 1030

REMEMBERING PARKLAND TRAGEDY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MOSKOWITZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind this body of the 5-year anniversary of the shooting at my high school, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, in my hometown of Parkland on February 14, and the 17 lives we lost that day.

I remember that day like it was yesterday. My wife called. I was on the floor of the Florida legislature, and she told me that she had just passed the high school, and she had never seen that many police officers in her life.

We would soon find out that 17 people didn't make it out of the building, most of them children. I went home. I went to the school. I saw what it looks like when a mass shooting comes to your neighborhood, to your high school.

I went to the hotel where they were keeping the families of the children that were missing. I knew they weren't missing. Eight hours those families were in a hotel ballroom waiting to hear from the local police department and the FBI what floor their kid died on in the building.

I didn't hear crying. I heard screaming. It haunts me.

I brought my colleagues to the school from the Florida legislature, Republicans and Democrats. They got to see what it looks like when backpacks are piled up outside, when bullet holes are trying to go through classroom glass, what it looks like when homework is scattered in the hallway and where there is blood outside the front door where someone passed away.

These parents now have empty rooms in their homes, empty chairs at the dinner table. There is no graduation. There is no college. There is no wedding. There is no tomorrow, no future.

My 4-year-old went to school right around the corner from Marjory Stoneman Douglas, one traffic light away. He was in a writing class that day because he needed to learn how to write his name. The teacher that put him into a closet when they went into a lockdown procedure during the shooting was Jen Guttenberg, Fred Guttenberg's wife. She was protecting my son when her daughter Jaime was killed at Douglas.

Five years later, my 4-year-old is now 9, but Jaime and the other kids are forever the age they were. She is forever 14.

On February 14 of this year, the 5-year anniversary of the shooting at Parkland, parents will do what they have been doing for the last 5 years, visiting their children at a cemetery.

I remember the parents telling me that the only thing they did wrong that day was send their kid to school. That is not a statement. It is an indictment on us. Government failed those families that day.

We did respond. We did pass the Marjory Stoneman Douglas School Safety Act. We did raise the age in Florida to buy any gun to 21. We did institute red flag laws that have been used 9,000 times since we put them there. We did place more school resource officers and

mental health counselors in all of the high schools. We passed that on a bipartisan basis. We passed it with Democrats and Republicans. It was signed into law by a Republican Governor who became a Republican Senator. Not one Republican who voted for that law to make kids safe in school lost their reelection, not one.

I am going to read the names into the RECORD, Mr. Speaker, and then I am going to use the rest of my time to take a moment of silence for the victims:

Alyssa Alhadeff, Martin Duque Anguiano, Scott Beigel, Nicholas Dworet, Aaron Feis, Jaime Guttenberg, Chris Hixon, Luke Hoyer, Cara Loughran, Gina Montalto, Joaquin Oliver, Alaina Petty, Meadow Pollack, Helena Ramsay, Carmen Schentrup, Alex Schachter, and Peter Wang.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 35 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. KIM of California) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Our help is in the name of the Lord who made Heaven and Earth. We call upon Your holy name, O God, that You would hear our prayers in Heaven and attend to our needs here on Earth.

There are wars and rumors of wars overwhelming our news feed, including the ongoing conflict in places like Ukraine and South Sudan. Nations rise up against nation and our hearts sink at the sight of the injustice and unrelenting warfare. We call upon Your righteous name, O God, that You would hear our prayers in Heaven and bring peace and justice to our world.

We are horrified by the earthquakes' merciless devastation in Turkey and Syria, and deeply saddened by the unprecedented famine in other regions across the globe. We call upon Your powerful name, O God, that You would hear our prayers in Heaven and be merciful to Your people. Rescue them from this time of tribulation and in Your grace provide for them in their dire need.

We confess that in our own families and communities and in this country, we seem to have turned from our faith in You and have betrayed one another in countless ways. Lawlessness has in-

creased and our love for You and our fellow human beings seems to have grown cold. We call upon Your merciful name, O God, that You would hear our prayers in Heaven and heal our land.

May the gospel of Your sovereignty serve as a testimony to us and to all Nations that, once again, we would call upon Your name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LEE of Florida) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. LEE of Florida led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

STATE OF THE UNION RESPONSE

(Mr. ALFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today in response to the President's State of the Union Address.

While the state of the Union was the focus last night, today, I am more concerned about the state of the President.

Just hours ago, the President of the United States stood in this very room right behind me and told one of the greatest tales that I have seen in modern history, attempting to tout optimism, curbed inflation, and a secure nation.

However, this failing, flailing, incompetent chief executive ran from the fact that he welcomed more than 4 million illegal aliens into our sovereign Nation, he reversed our energy independence, he let the Chinese spy balloon float entirely over our Nation with impunity, flying over Whiteman Air Force Base, home of the B-2 Stealth bomber.

The state of our Union is strong. The state of our President is weak.

We don't need more yelling, Mr. President. We need more healing in America.

Some 40 years ago, President Ronald Reagan said, It is time for us to re-

assert our trust in God. It is time for us to realize that we need Him more than He needs us. It is time to turn to God for the healing of America. Let's get about the business of healing America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE CHILDCARE

(Ms. JACOBS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACOBS. Madam Speaker, as a 34-year-old woman, I can tell you that affordable and accessible childcare is a top priority for my generation, but the problem isn't that millennials can't budget or that we are eating too much avocado toast; it is that the cost of childcare has skyrocketed, if you can even find it.

In San Diego, the average annual cost for childcare for one infant in a licensed center is more than \$19,000, which is out of reach for most middle- and low-income families.

And it is not any easier for providers who are in one of the lowest paid professions in the country and struggle to make ends meet and keep their doors open.

The free market hasn't fixed the childcare crisis, and small or temporary fixes just aren't good enough.

That is why I am proud to introduce the Child Care for Every Community Act today with Senator ELIZABETH WARREN and Congresswoman MIKIE SHERRILL.

Our bicameral legislation would guarantee access to childcare that is affordable for every family, and it would support childcare workers in their incredibly important work.

We need big, wholesale changes to our social safety net to support kids and families starting with the Child Care for Every Community Act.

EUGENE HENLEBEN'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

(Mr. MILLS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MILLS. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to talk about a very special constituent from Florida's Seventh Congressional District.

Eugene Henleben was born in St. Louis 100 years ago on February 7. He served our great Nation on a PT boat during the Second World War and on an aircraft carrier in the Korean war.

After the war, Eugene moved to Chicago where he met his beautiful wife. They married in 1950 and had three children they raised in Glenview, Illinois.

He spent most of his civilian career working as an engineer, and in 1992, he moved to the great city of Longwood, Florida, where he has lived ever since.